

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 280839

62

ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S:MR. LUERS

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R 241543Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 280839

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, OVIP (EADE, GEORGE J. GENERAL)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPCINCEUR TO BAHRAIN

REF: MANAMA 1047

1. WE DO NOT THINK WE OUGHT TO USE GENERAL EADE'S VISIT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING DENIAL ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL RE ALLEGATIONS THAT US CONSIDERING USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCER NATIONS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH USE OF SURROGATES.

2. ON OTHER HAND, SHOULD BAHRAINIS RAISE MATTER DURING GENERAL'S VISIT, AMBASSADOR AND GENERAL EADE SHOULD POINT TO RECENT STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. PERTINENT EXTRACTS FOLLOW:

(A) PRESIDENT FORD'S US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW -  
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PAGE 02 STATE 280839

NOV 25. QUESTION: AS A RESULT OF THAT SPEECH (OF SEPT 23),

THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDEAST TO SECURE OIL SUPPLIES - LIBYA AND KUWAIT BEING MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR. IS THIS A POSSIBILITY?

THE PRESIDENT: I KNOW OF NO PLAN IN THAT REGARD.

QUESTION: DO YOU CONSIDER IT IRRESPONSIBLE JUST TO MAKE SUCH A COMMENT ABOUT MILITARY ACTION?

THE PRESIDENT: I THINK ITS SPECULATION THAT IS NOT PRE-  
DICATED ON ANY PLANS WITH WHICH I AM FAMILIAR.

(B) SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DEC 13 PRESS CONFERENCE IN  
BRUSSELS. QUESTION: CAN YOU PUT AN END TO THESE RUMORS  
THAT THERE IS AN AMERICAN SPECIAL ARMY WHICH IS TRAINING  
NOW TO OCCUPY ARAB OIL FIELDS AS ONE OF YOUR WAYS TO  
GET ...

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THERE IS NO AMERICAN ARMY THAT IS  
BEING TRAINED TO TAKE OVER ARAB OIL FIELDS.

(C) SECRETARY SCHLESINGER PRESS CONFERENCE OF SEPT 25.

QUESTION: BOTH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT  
HAVE REFERRED IN RECENT DAYS TO THE POSSIBILITY AND THE  
THREAT OF WARFARE AND THE BREAKING OF PEACE FROM OIL  
STARVED COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES THAT ARE THREATENED WITH  
DISASTER BY SPIRALING PRICES OF OIL. HAS THE DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT MADE ANY CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THIS AREA?

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: WE ARE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY KIND  
OF ACTION OF THAT SORT.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU DONE ANY PLANNING IN CASE OF A CON-  
TINGENCY OF THAT ARISING IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR PERSIAN  
GULF AREA?

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: I HAVE NOT CHECKED ON WHAT OUR  
CONTINGENCY PLANS MAY OR MAY NOT COVER. AS YOU KNOW,  
THERE ARE ALWAYS A LARGE NUMBER OF CONTINGENCY PLANS. I  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 280839

WOULD NOT CARE TO COMMENT ON THAT.

QUESTION: IS IT A REALISTIC OPTION, TO USE MILITARY FORCE

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: I WOULDN'T CARE TO SPECULATE ON  
THAT. I'VE INDICATED THAT WE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE ANY  
SUCH ACTION. KISSINGER

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